

Friday, July 27, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
9:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 4:00 p.m.
Five "One-minutes" Per Side	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **Complete consideration of H.R. 2419 – Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007 (Rep. Peterson-Agriculture):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Agriculture Committee Chair Rep. Collin Peterson, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
 - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**
- **H. Res. 567 – Rule providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1) to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) (Rep. Hastings (FL)-Rules):** The rule provides for consideration in the House of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and its consideration. The rule considers the conference report as read. Debate on the rule will be managed Rep. Alcee Hastings, and consideration will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**

- **Conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1) to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) (Rep. Thompson-Homeland Security):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Homeland Security Committee Chair Rep. Bennie Thompson, and consideration will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the conference report.
 - Vote on adoption of the conference report. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the conference report.**

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R. 2419 - FARM BILL EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

A REFORM BILL FOR THE FUTURE...

The 2007 Farm Bill is a carefully balanced package that includes real reforms to protect family farmers and agriculture in America in a fiscally responsible way. The bill will make sure U.S. farmers are around to put food on America's tables so we don't need to worry about unreliable, and often unsafe, imports.

FOCUSING ON REAL FARMERS...

The payment limitation package in the 2007 Farm Bill cracks down on subsidies and saves more than a half billion dollars. The bill redirects those funds to the people who need it most: working family farmers and ranchers. Farm Bill benefits won't go to millionaire farmers any more. The bill imposes the first ever limit that prevents millionaires from receiving farm subsidy benefits and offers complete transparency so the public knows taxpayer dollars are getting to the family farmers who need them.

HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED...

The 2007 Farm Bill reauthorizes nutrition programs, accounting for two-thirds of the bill's funding, to help low income families in need, including the food stamp program that keeps many Americans from going hungry. The bill increases the minimum benefit under the Food Stamp program for the first time in 30 years, and indexes it to inflation. It eliminates the current cap on childcare costs to help the working poor meet rising costs. In addition, it nearly doubles the funding for the Emergency Food Assistant Program and expands the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program to all 50 states.

A HEALTHY INVESTMENT...

The legislation makes historic investments in programs to support fruit and vegetable producers who have not received traditional Farm Bill benefits. The bill provides \$1.6 billion in funding for fruit and vegetable programs, including nutrition, research, pest management and trade promotion programs. It increases and expands the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program to schools in all 50 States and allows Senior Farmers Markets to expand six-fold. The bill provides mandatory funding for organic certification cost share and authorizes a new incentive payment program for farmers wanting to convert to organic production.

IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTING OPEN SPACES...

The 2007 Farm Bill makes conservation a cornerstone of agriculture for all producers in all regions of the country. The bill increases funding and access to conservation programs to preserve farm and rangeland, improve water quality and quantity, and enhance soil conservation, air quality, and wildlife habitat on working lands.

STIMULATING RURAL ECONOMIES...

The 2007 Farm Bill also includes key provisions that invest in rural communities nationwide, including economic development programs that target rural areas in need and broadband telecommunication services to bridge the digital divide and provide access to rural, underserved areas.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE...

The 2007 Farm Bill boosts funding for renewable energy programs by 600 percent. It encourages the production of renewable energy, including biofuels and biobased products that protect our environment and encourage energy independence. It provides loan guarantees for the development of biorefineries that process biofuels from dedicated energy crops and agriculture and forestry waste materials, a key step toward bringing more renewable fuels to market in America.

Remaining Amendments to H.R. 2419

1. Goodlatte Amendment
2. Cardoza Amendment
3. Boustany / Alexander Amendment
4. Jackson-Lee Amendment
5. Welch / Arcuri Amendment
6. Rangel Amendment
7. Boehner Amendment
8. Manzullo Amendment
9. Blumenauer Amendment
10. Davis, Danny / Kirk Amendment
11. Terry Amendment
12. Putnam Amendment
13. Cooper Amendment
14. Hall, John Amendment

H.R. 1 - IMPROVING AMERICA'S SECURITY ACT OF 2007

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- Greater distribution of homeland security grants for states and high-risk urban areas based on risk of terrorism, while still ensuring that all states have funds available for basic preparedness. Each state is guaranteed a minimum of .375 percent of funds in FY 2008 to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, scaling down to a minimum of 0.35% in 2012.
- \$1.8 billion authorization for FY 2008 to assist states and high-risk urban areas in preparing for terrorist threats; \$400 million authorization for Emergency Management Performance Grants to assist states in

preparing for all-hazards, and \$400 million annually beginning in FY09 for interoperable emergency communications – all as part of an overall effort to ensure that all states have basic capabilities to prepare for and respond to both man-made and natural disasters.

- A dedicated interoperability grant program to improve interoperability at local, state, and federal levels.
- More than \$4 billion over four years for rail, transit, and bus security grants.
- \$250 million annually for airport checkpoint screening, \$450 million annually for baggage screening, and \$50 million annually for the next four years for aviation security R&D.
- 100 percent screening within five years of maritime cargo before it's loaded on ships in foreign ports bound for the U.S. Secretary of Department of Homeland Security may extend deadline by two-year increments.
- Screening of all cargo carried on passenger airplanes within three years.
- Protection from lawsuits for people who in good faith report what they believe is terrorist activity in and around airplanes, trains, and buses.
- Stronger security measures for Visa Waiver Program, which allows travelers from select countries to visit the U.S. without a visa, through creation of a new Electronic Travel Authorization system and improved reporting of lost and stolen passports.
- President to publicly disclose the total amount appropriated for the intelligence community. After the next two fiscal years the President may waive the disclosure requirement only if it would harm national security.

Quote of the Day

"Don't tell me the sky's the limit when there are footsteps on the moon."
-Anonymous

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